

February 4, 2003

**AS AMENDED BY THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
ON FEBRUARY 11, 2003**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THE  
2003-04 SESSION (ALL AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)**

This letter recommends goals and policies for the first year of the 2003-04 State Legislative Session. These policies and goals, together with other positions adopted by your Board, will guide our State advocacy efforts. They have been developed in coordination with County Departments, the Legislative Strategist, and our Sacramento advocates.

**THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve the updated goals and policies contained in this letter and attachments, which seek to minimize the adverse impact of State actions on the County, achieve greater flexibility over the use of State funds, secure State assistance whenever possible, especially from non-General Fund sources, and promote the recovery of the State and local economy.
2. Instruct the Chief Administrative Officer, affected departments, the Legislative Strategist, and our Sacramento advocates to work with the County delegation, other counties and local governments, and interest groups to pursue these goals and policies.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The State of California is facing an unprecedented budget crisis of enormous proportions. Whether one accepts the Governor's January Budget's definition of the budget gap as \$34.6 billion or the Legislative Analyst's preliminary estimate that it is in the \$26 billion range, the size of the problem that needs to be solved by State leaders seems overwhelming when one considers that State General Fund spending in FY 2002-03 was expected to total \$75.5 billion. The County's budget is very much at risk.

As the local administrative arm of State government, counties are extremely reliant on State policy, regulations and above all funding, including State matching funds for Federal programs administered by counties. Some \$4.8 billion, or 29 percent, of the County's current budget comes directly from the State. Another \$4.6 billion, or 26 percent, comes from Federal funds, most of which flow through the State budget and are dependent upon State matching funds. Given the magnitude of the State's budget problem, and the likelihood that major expenditure reductions will be part of the State's budget solution, the County is virtually certain to share in the State's pain. The question is to what extent and whether the County will be given sufficient flexibility to effectively manage the budget and service reductions that it will have to make.

## **THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET SOLUTION**

The \$34.6 billion budget gap identified by the Governor extends through the five months remaining in this fiscal year, as well as FY 2003-04. In order to reduce the magnitude of the reductions in the budget year, the Governor on December 6, 2002, released a list of \$10.2 billion in spending reductions and other adjustments which he urged the Legislature to adopt by the end of January 2003. On January 10, 2003 the Governor released his FY 2003-04 Budget which addresses the balance of the budget gap. The combined proposals would close the gap through \$5.5 billion of budget solutions in FY 2002-03 and \$29.1 billion in FY 2003-04. The solutions recommended include:

\$13.7 billion in program savings;

\$ 8.2 billion in taxes for a realignment of State programs;

\$ 5.1 billion in shifts to local governments, primarily through the elimination of the Vehicle License Fee general government backfill;

\$ 2.2 billion in other fund shifts;

\$ 2.1 billion in transfers and other revenues; and

\$ 3.3 billion in loans/borrowing, including continuation of the deferral of reimbursement of State mandates.

## **IMPACT ON THE COUNTY**

Many of the Governor's proposals negatively impact the County and the public it serves. The direct fiscal impact in terms of the loss of State funds is shown on Attachment A to this letter. Based on what we know about the Governor's proposals at this time, we estimate that the County would lose approximately \$202 million in FY 2002-03 and \$597 million in FY 2003-04.

## **OVERALL STATE LEGISLATIVE POLICIES AND GOALS**

Two proposals in particular account for most of the funds lost: elimination of the VLF general government backfill and continued deferral of reimbursement for State mandates. In addition, the Governor's proposal to greatly expand realignment of the State-County relationship by shifting \$8 billion of State programs and revenues to counties carries enormous implications and risks for the County.

### **The VLF General Government Backfill: Oppose the Loss of VLF Revenue**

The Governor's proposal would result in a loss of \$663 million over the next seventeen months, resulting in a reduction in the County's discretionary revenue by over 30 percent on an annualized basis. Discretionary revenues help to finance local services such as public protection, parks, and health care, as well as State mandated local government services such as the Assessor and Auditor.

Only \$1.5 billion (9.1 percent) of the County Budget is discretionary and over one-third of that amount is attributable to one time costs, capital expenditures, and reserves and contingencies. **Consequently, a FY 2003-04 reduction of \$472 million would require major reductions in funding for the County's public protection agencies, primarily the Sheriff (\$143M), Probation (\$50M), the District Attorney (\$32M), Fire-Life Guards (\$10M), and the Coroner (\$9.2M), which receive approximately one-third of the County's discretionary funds.** The County has no authority to raise revenues to replace these funds.

Elimination of the backfill breaks an agreement entered into by the Governor and the Legislature in 1998 to hold local governments, including cities, harmless from VLF rate

reductions, if necessary by increasing the VLF whenever the State cannot afford to fund the backfill. The County opposes the Governor's proposal to eliminate the backfill because it would devastate County services. However, if it becomes necessary to reduce the backfill, the County supports an amendment to clarify the circumstance that would trigger the rate increase provided for in current law.

Current law requires such a rate increase if the backfill is reduced but does not specify the State official responsible for determining that the State cannot afford to backfill local governments. Given the magnitude of the State's budget problem and the fact that the Governor has recommended a reduction in the backfill, it is clear that the State cannot afford to fully fund the backfill and that the VLF rate should increase accordingly. **However, given the uncertainty about how this requirement could be implemented, the Board on January 28, 2003 supported the necessary clarification of current law as provided for in ABX1 4 (Wesson) to make such an increase possible if the VLF backfill is reduced.**

**SB 90 Mandate Reimbursement: Support Legislation to Establish a Date or Schedule for the Reimbursement of SB 90 Claims, and Seek Budget Year Funding for Special Education Programs Administered by the County.**

SB 90 requires the State to reimburse local government for the costs resulting from a Federal or State law or regulation that imposes a new program or increases the service level of an existing program. As part of last year's budget solution, the Governor and the Legislature agreed to defer payments indefinitely for non-education mandates beyond a token amount. By appropriating a token amount, the State did not suspend these mandates so that local government must continue to provide the mandated services.

The continued deferral of SB 90 reimbursements amounts to an indefinite low interest loan to the State without any certainty of repayment. If a date for deferral is extended for another year, the amount of this loan will be over \$1.2 billion. Over \$210 million of this amount is from Los Angeles County, including over \$60 million in the budget year.

More importantly, approximately 50 percent of the County's deferred claims are for the cost of providing special education services to seriously emotionally disturbed pupils and handicapped students. If those services were provided by a school district, they would be exempt from the deferral like other education mandates. But, because they are provided by the County Department of Mental Health, they are not being reimbursed. While it may seem unrealistic to believe the State could afford the \$75 million budget year costs for these services, the Legislature has shown an interest in exempting these services from the deferral and, depending upon the final budget

compromise, could decide to make them a priority. If so, these mandates could be paid for from over \$100 million in new Federal funds the State will receive in the budget year for these programs, or they could be included within the State's Proposition 98 commitments.

While it unlikely that the County would avail itself of the option, other counties more seriously impacted by the deferral have indicated that they would like to be able to borrow against the anticipated revenue which would require the State to establish a date or schedule for the repayment of SB 90 claims.

**Program Realignment: Oppose Unless the Revenues Provided Cover the Cost of the Programs Shifted in the Current and Future Years and Counties are Provided with Flexibility Over the Programs Realigned.**

The County has generally been supportive of realignment, but there are serious reasons for concern about the Governor's proposal. The sales tax and the income tax on higher income earners are sensitive to the overall economy and tend to decline in bad economic times when the demand for many of the services transferred is likely to increase. The cigarette tax is actually projected to decline as a result of reduced consumption.

Many of the programs to be transferred, particularly the four largest which account for 62 percent of the cost shift (Medi-Cal Long Term Care, In Home Supportive Services, Child Care, and a 15 percent share of Medi-Cal benefits), are fast growing or are likely to become so in the next decade with the aging of the State's population. State Medi-Cal costs increased an average of 15 percent annually between FY 1990-91 and FY 2000-01. At the end of the current budget year, IHSS costs per person served and case load will have increased by approximately 10 percent and 8 percent, respectively, on an annual basis since 1996-97. **Based on the State's own projections, the revenues transferred will not keep pace with the growth in costs for the transferred programs.**

Many of the programs to be transferred are Federal entitlements or State mandates for which counties have little or no authority over eligibility or benefit levels. Counties would be given the responsibility of paying for programs that they cannot control. **If realignment is to work well for the counties as well as the State, counties must either have the flexibility to control program costs or be protected from cost increases that they cannot control.**

Much work remains to be done to produce a realignment proposal that works for counties as well as the State. The County will actively participate in this discussion.

## **SPECIFIC POLICIES ON STATE ISSUES OF COUNTY INTEREST**

Attachment I contains recommended State legislative policies addressing issues of major County interest, and Attachment II contains County-sponsored program-specific legislative goals.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The proposed goals and policies in this State Legislative Agenda are consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goals, specifically Organizational Effectiveness and Fiscal Responsibility. Adoption of the proposed Agenda will allow the CAO and the County's Sacramento advocates to quickly respond to proposals that significantly affect the County such as reductions in local revenues, cuts in program funding, or new mandates on county government. In addition, adoption will allow pursuit of legislation and support of specific proposals that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of County services.

## **CONCLUSION**

The recommended policies contained in this letter and in Attachments I and II are submitted for your Board's consideration as the guiding principles for our advocacy efforts in Sacramento during the first year of the 2003-04 Legislative Session. The policies and goals contained in this package are in addition to, and are not intended to be exclusive of, other positions your Board may adopt. As in the past, the Legislative Agenda will be updated to reflect subsequent Board actions.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:GK  
MAL:JR:ib

Attachments

**ESTIMATED LOSS TO LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
FROM THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET REDUCTIONS  
(DOLLARS IN MILLIONS)**

|  | <u>FY 02-03</u> | <u>FY 03-04</u> |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| Elimination of VLF General Government Backfill       | \$ 191.0        | \$ 472.0        |
| Suspension of Mandate Reimbursement                  |                 | 60.8 *          |
| Undesignated Fees: Shift to Courts                   |                 | 26.0            |
| Public Works: Local Street and Road Fund AB 2928     | 8.7             | 18.0            |
| Federal Child Support Penalty                        | 1.3             | 10.6            |
| Probation: Local Assistance for Training: Suspension |                 | 2.0             |
| Probation: CYA Sliding Fee Increase                  |                 | 1.9             |
| Worker's Compensation User Fee                       |                 | 1.7             |
| Sheriff: Local Assistance for Training: Suspension   |                 | 1.7             |
| Public Library: Foundation Grant Reduction           | 1.6             | 1.6             |
| Direct / Inter-Library Loan                          |                 | .3              |
| Trauma Care (Our Share of \$6.8M County-wide)        |                 | .5              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <u>\$ 202.6</u> | <u>\$ 597.1</u> |

\* Reflects the Auditor's estimate of claims that will be filed for FY 2003-04. Actual claims filed in FY 2002-03 totaled \$61.1 million.

This table represents the loss or deferral (in the case of Mandate Reimbursement) of State funds based upon the Governor's proposed mid-year budget reductions and January budget. It does not reflect the actual impact on the County or a department's budget which may be different because they assume a different level of State funding or may be able to offset some or all of the lost revenue.

# RECOMMENDED STATE LEGISLATIVE POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST

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## ATTACHMENT I

### **1. Children and Families**

#### **1.1 Child Welfare Services**

Support increased funding for family preservation programs and reimbursement for children detained in county emergency shelters.

Support legislation to guarantee full Child Welfare Services allocation independent of actual caseload for up to five years.

Support increased funding for adoption activities and post-adoption services.

Support funding of forensic medical examinations in child abuse cases.

Support funding for parenting programs aimed at teens.

Support legislation that encourages the use of family group conferencing and decision-making to develop an individualized plan for the care of each child.

Support legislation to clarify that agencies providing services to a family may share case information.

Support legislation to streamline Dependency Court procedures while ensuring the safety and best interests of children.

Support proposals that simplify the Welfare and Institutions Code statutes regarding notice of dependency hearings.

Support proposals that enhance collaboration between child welfare and law enforcement agencies.

Support proposals to clarify and provide for social workers' access to dependent children's medical and counseling records.

Support proposals to redetermine eligibility for Title IV -E annually, consistent with Federal law and requirements.

Support legislation to permit courts to allow extended visits by dependent children with their parents or guardians if part of a family reunification plan and the safety of the child is ensured.

## 1.2 Child Welfare Services – Foster Care

Support continued eligibility of immigrant foster children for Medi-Cal and Foster Care funds.

Support the continuation of equal treatment for Los Angeles County foster families under California Necessities Index rate increases.

Support State reimbursement for the placement of dependent children who are eligible for regional center services, in for-profit group homes, when an appropriate not-for-profit facility is unavailable.

Support legislation and funding to allow the State Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division to make unannounced visits to Foster Family Agency (FFA) certified homes.

Support efforts to increase kinship adoptions and other initiatives which assure legal permanency for children in foster care.

Support legislation to facilitate successful emancipation, promote self-sufficiency and improve opportunities for youth aging out of foster care.

Support regulatory changes which require foster family agencies to conduct duplicate address checks of certified homes.

Support proposals to simplify foster care program eligibility requirements.

Support legislation to allow expanded use of foster care funds for Foster Family Agencies to support family reunification and placement permanency for children in out-of-home care.

Support proposals to improve foster care by strengthening requirements for foster family home studies, requiring longer and more rigorous training for newly licensed foster families, professionalizing foster parenting, and providing adequate funding for these improvements.

Support proposals to ensure that the educational system appropriately meets the educational needs of children in foster care.

Support proposals that provide and fund substance abuse treatment services for children placed in group homes.

Support legislation that would allow child welfare personnel to access FBI information when conducting criminal background checks for emergency placements.

Support increased flexibility in State requirements for foster care services case plans, consistent with Federal statutes and regulations.

### 1.3 Child Care and Child Development

Support increased funding for subsidized child care services to ensure that children identified as at risk of abuse or neglect, or as income-eligible ( low-income families and families who are currently, or have recently received CalWORKs benefits) have access to quality services.

Support adequate funding of recipient needs based upon work participation rates.

Support continuation of services to CalWORKs families eligible for Stage 3 Child Care as well as local flexibility to transfer child care funds between stages to address funding shortfalls or changing demand for child care.

Support efforts to ensure that eligibility for subsidized child care is not subject to TANF time limits.

Support efforts to maintain income eligibility for subsidized child care for families earning 75 percent or less of the State Median Income.

Support improved reimbursement rates for subsidized child care, including authority for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to reimburse providers at a rate higher than the standard reimbursement rate.

Support efforts to ensure that the level of child care subsidy for all child care services is sufficient to provide quality care, and allow access to a broad range of child care options.

Support efforts to ensure that the fees charged to low-income families participating in subsidized child care programs are affordable and do not exceed eight percent of family income.

Support measures that guarantee child care subsidies to families who are eligible for subsidized child care, with emphasis on families whose income is less than what would be required to continue receiving CalWORKs.

Support efforts to develop a master plan for early care and education in California which addresses services for all children from birth to 14 years.

Support increased funding for the development, construction, and/or renovation of licensed child care facilities in areas where there is a shortage of licensed child care.

Support legislation and funding to allow California Department of Education (CDE) contractors to use CDE funds to purchase child care facilities.

Support proposals that enable counties to design an integrated system of high quality, subsidized child care that is simple for families to access and utilize and efficient to administer. These services should include information on the range of child care

options available to families, support for informed parental choice of child care settings, and continuity of child care to families as they move toward self-sufficiency.

Support efforts to integrate planning for child care and development facilities and services into established municipal planning processes.

Support funding for the development and maintenance of Family Resource Centers.

## **2. Environment, Natural Resources and Recreation**

### **2.1 Air Quality**

Support funding to assist local government to convert vehicle fleets to alternative fuels to improve air quality.

Support measures to develop and increase the availability of alternative-fuel refueling infrastructure.

Oppose cuts in assistance to local government fuel emission reduction programs.

Support measures that promote the feasible development of cleaner burning fuels and other technologies that help meet Federal and State air quality standards.

Support measures that allow for innovation and local flexibility in developing, maintaining, and expanding cost-effective programs that increase vehicle ridership.

### **2.2 Beaches**

Support measures that provide funding for beach erosion and accretion monitoring and for beach sand replenishment, including full funding of the Public Beach Restoration Act of 1999 (AB 64).

Support funding to maintain clean beaches and improve the water quality of coastal waters, estuaries, bays and near shore waters.

Support funding for construction of restrooms, parking lots, accessways, lifeguard and maintenance facilities, landscaping and other infrastructure on public beaches.

Support the inclusion of beaches in the definition of parks, for the purpose of qualifying for park funding programs, if the beaches are in densely populated, urban areas and are used by large numbers of residents as if they were an urban park.

Oppose legislation to provide the Coastal Commission discretion in approving permits for construction of seawalls, revetments, breakwaters, groins, harbor channels, or similar structures, where those structures are required to serve coastal-dependent uses or protect existing structures or public beaches in danger from erosion.

Oppose legislation to extend beyond January 1, 2004 the prohibition against appropriating certain Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act funds for grants to local governments through the Coastal Resources and Energy Assistance Program.

### 2.3 Environmental Protection and Open Space

Support increased funding for environmental protection programs and capital projects, including resource, open space, and shoreline protection, Santa Monica Bay, and beach restoration.

Support creation of a Statewide endowment fund to protect, restore and maintain natural resource areas, greenways, riparian corridors, and trails.

Support funding for the removal and eradication of invasive species that are currently impacting natural landscape and open space areas.

Support legislation to promote environmentally friendly programs that address reasonable protection of resources such as pesticide use, care of trees, ecological systems and open space, and gray water use.

Support measures which, consistent with Board-adopted policies, promote the preservation and restoration of Los Angeles County mountain, bay, watershed, river and wetland areas.

### 2.4 Parks

Support funding for acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities.

Support ongoing funding of local agencies for the operation and maintenance of parks and open space areas.

Support funding and partnering opportunities with social service and law enforcement agencies to provide for youth programs, services, and facilities.

Support legislation to maintain or improve playground safety standards, without adding to construction, operation, or maintenance costs.

Support legislation to promote safe aquatic opportunities through appropriate standards and regulations.

Support funding for the urban reforestation programs of the California Division of Forestry.

Support efforts to provide for inter-agency and inter-governmental cooperation to develop goals and strategies to address the problem of obesity.

Oppose legislation that reduces local authority by changing formulas or procedures for administering land or fees dedicated for park acquisition, development, or refurbishment.

Oppose legislation that reduces local authority by changing the existing funding mechanisms or procedures for administering special benefit assessment districts.

Oppose legislation that would increase exposure to, or reduce immunities from, governmental liability related to the ownership, construction, operation or maintenance of recreational facilities such as skateboard parks.

## 2.5 Watershed Management and Flood Control

Support funding for demonstration grants for projects that link watershed management, environmental restoration, recreation, open space and beach improvements. (See Exhibit 1 to this Attachment for additional information on specific County projects.)

Support proposals which promote environmentally-friendly flood control improvement and projects, and do not diminish the performance of flood control systems.

Support legislation to allow projects such as the Los Angeles County Drainage Area Project (LACDA) to qualify for funding as a multipurpose project, eligible for reimbursement for up to 60% of construction costs.

Oppose legislation that would grant cities the authority to set waste discharge standards for municipal separate sewer systems.

Support legislation to allow counties and other public agencies to adopt stormwater fees, upon voter approval, to adequately fund clean water programs.

## 2.6 Water Supply

Support funding to implement the most aggressive level of carcinogen removal from Los Angeles County Water Works District drinking water.

Support legislation to improve the reliability of water imported into Los Angeles County.

Support legislation to encourage water conservation and increase the efficiency of water use.

Oppose legislation that would create unrealistic requirements that impede the construction of water facilities in improved and developed areas.

## **3. General Government**

### 3.1 Retirement, Compensation and Benefits, and Worker's Compensation

Sponsor or support local option legislation to implement employee compensation or benefit changes, as directed by the Board of Supervisors.

Oppose legislation that mandates or authorizes compensation or benefit changes without approval of the Board of Supervisors.

Oppose legislation which would remove the Board of Supervisors' control over benefit increases or decreases in the Los Angeles County Retirement System that increase the County's cost.

Support balanced reform of the State workers' compensation system, including a reconsideration of the benefit improvements enacted in 2002, which could cost the County up to \$14 million in 2003 and \$50 million annually when fully implemented.

Oppose legislation that mandates eligibility of additional employees for safety workers' compensation benefits or safety retirement benefit provisions of current law.

Oppose legislation that expands existing or creates new presumptions by mandating that certain injuries, illnesses, diseases, or physical conditions an employee may develop are job-related for workers' compensation or service-connected disability retirement.

Oppose legislation that eliminates current requirements that employees demonstrate on-the-job exposure in order to qualify for workers' compensation or service-connected disability retirement benefits.

Support proposals to clarify the rights and responsibilities of the County to pay Advanced Disability Pension Benefits to safety members to ensure that all appropriate County costs are reimbursed.

### 3.2 Land Use Planning

Oppose legislation that infringes upon county board of supervisors' local land use decision-making authority.

Support the imposition of liens on non owner-occupied properties to recover costs associated with code compliance enforcement.

### 3.3 Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures

Support increases in State and industry funding for pest exclusion, including eradication of the red imported fire ant, the Preventive (sterile) Release Program for Medfly, and inspection of nursery plants and products.

Support an increase in State and industry funding to improve the program to inspect and certify farmers' markets.

Support increased funding for the management of established pests, including invasive weeds, insects and vertebrates; and research to develop resistant varieties for established diseases such as Pierce's Disease and Sudden Oak Death.

Support increased funding to regulate economic poisons (pesticides) to protect food and fiber crops, and ornamental landscape without jeopardizing the safety of workers and the public, or the quality of the environment.



### 3.4 Consumer Protection

Support legislation to protect consumers through more and better information so that value comparisons can be made in anything sold by weight, measure or count.

Support legislation to exempt weights and measures regulatory vehicles from hazardous materials regulations, provided such vehicles do not enter public roadways when carrying such materials.

Support legislation to prohibit products recalled or banned by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) from being resold in thrift shops and/or used in child care facilities.

### 3.5 Animal Care and Control

Support legislation to reimburse local governments for the cost of complying with state regulations regarding the impoundment, treatment, care and housing of all stray and owner-surrendered domestic animals at public animal shelters.

### 3.6 Child Support Administration

Support legislation to allow counties to relinquish all responsibility for the local child support program to the State.

Support full funding of county child support collection program costs.

Counties should be held harmless for any error or omission on the part of the State, including failure to meet collection standards.

Oppose proposals to hold counties responsible for paying Federal penalties.

Support the use of the County's automated system Statewide or as part of an alternative system that would more quickly meet Federal requirements.

Support counties participation in the development of performance standards for child support enforcement.

### 3.7 County Investment Practices

Support measures which propose reasonable changes to local investment practices to protect public funds, and oppose measures which unnecessarily restrict the ability of local agencies to invest prudently and optimize investment returns.

Oppose measures which repeal the authority of counties to issue bond financing or other debt when viable and feasible, or which limit counties' ability to issue debt to refund outstanding bonds to reduce the cost of borrowing.

### 3.8 Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

Support legislation that ensures the revenue neutrality of local reorganizations provided that it:

Does not change statutes covering LAFCO proceedings regarding special reorganizations filed before January 1, 2000.

Is not retroactive to incorporations that took place before the effective date of the legislation enacting the change.

Ensures that one element of the cost of services to be assumed by the incorporating entity shall be the cost of those services provided within the area by the State of California which will, subsequent to incorporation, be provided by the incorporating entity.

Ensures that the State of California will maintain revenue neutrality by transferring to the incorporating entity ongoing State revenue equal to the State's prior cost of providing those services.

Does not increase the duties and responsibilities of LAFCOs or dictate expenditures for services without providing reimbursement through fees or from State sources.

Provides that in calculating the cost of service responsibilities being transferred in a reorganization, the LAFCO shall not consider those services funded from sources that were voter-approved or that, if re-enacted, would be subject to the provisions of Articles XIII C and D of the State Constitution.

Does not increase fiscal liability of the County in annexations and incorporations.

### 3.9 Historic Preservation

Support legislation for the funding and development of the El Pueblo Cultural and Performing Arts Center on the County-owned properties known as the Antique Block.

### 3.10 Human Relations

Support legislation that addresses and combats discrimination based on age, disability, gender identity, language, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics.

Support legislation to reduce hate crimes, increase human relations education and training, and increase communities' capacity to address intergroup relations issues in a positive way.

### 3.11 Library Services

Support budget actions which would fully fund the Public Library Foundation (PLF) Program commitment of a 10 percent State share of operating costs as provided in existing law; and oppose reductions in the current PLF funding level.

Support actions to restore library district property taxes.

### 3.12 Museums and Performing Arts

Support measures which provide increased State funding for the arts and museums, including construction/renovation of regional cultural facilities.

Support funding for the Grand Avenue realignment project.

### 3.13 Education

Support funding for school crossing guards provided by counties.

Support legislation to require school districts to establish a process in which the parent or guardian of a student commits in a written agreement or compact to assist and cooperate in the education of that student.

### 3.14 Public Records

Oppose legislation that imposes unreasonable burdens or creates unfunded mandates to provide access to records managed and information maintained by County agencies.

Oppose legislation that makes the economic disclosure requirements of the Political Reform Act needlessly complicated and financially burdensome to administer at the local level, creating an unfunded mandate.

### 3.15 Redevelopment

Support legislation which continues or extends the redevelopment law reforms accomplished in AB 1290, and oppose any redevelopment legislation which would cause the County to lose revenues or which would limit or repeal the provisions of AB 1290.

Support measures to strengthen the blight findings requirement to prevent redevelopment abuse.

Support proposals to increase the statutory pass-through for taxing entities to make redevelopment more self-financing, or alternatively, provide counties with the authority to negotiate pass-through agreements with cities and redevelopment agencies on new (AB 1290) projects.

Support extension of review periods to allow counties and other affected parties adequate time to analyze the validity and impact of proposed redevelopment projects.

Support measures to close loopholes that allow agencies to extend the life of projects beyond the statutory time frames established in AB 1290.

### 3.16 Elections and Voting

Support funding to replace the County's card-punch voting system with a more advanced system that yields accurate and expeditious election results, and ensure that County funding does not preclude State or Federal Funding.

Support legislation to provide counties greater flexibility in determining precinct sizes.

Support legislation to require disclosure of the payer for telephone campaign messages

## **4. Health**

### 4.1 Financing of the Safety Net

Support, through a coalition with other counties and providers, a dependable, long-term funding source for the health care safety net.

Support additional reductions in, or elimination of, the Disproportionate Share Hospital Administrative fee.

Support legislation that promotes the fair and equitable distribution of Disproportionate Share Hospital dollars between public and private hospitals.

Encourage the State to use its share of Proposition 10 funds or other sources to backfill any losses to the Tobacco Tax's Proposition 99 California Healthcare for Indigent Program (CHIP) fund.

Support legislative or administrative changes to allow the Department of Health Services access to financial information records of patients (e.g., State Franchise Tax Board, Department of Motor Vehicles, etc.) which would facilitate identification and verification of patient financial resources.

Support legislation to permit counties to assert and collect on liens for health care costs of patients who receive a monetary award from a law suit settlement or compromise rather than from a judgment.

Support proposals to expand the use of intergovernmental transfers (IGT's), health provider fees, and other allowable methods to increase net Federal Medicaid and SCHIP matching payments to California and health providers like the County at no cost to the State General Fund.

Support the use of State capital improvement funds, currently limited to hospitals, for the construction of clinics and other public health facilities.

Support assistance to hospitals to meet the SB 1953 seismic safety requirements.

Support funding to promote/market the availability of County health care services.

Support funding for technology infrastructure in public hospitals and health systems.

#### 4.2 Emergency and Trauma Care

Reaffirm the County's commitment to the trauma care system in Los Angeles County and continue to work with the Statewide coalition to seek a continuation of State funding for trauma centers.

Support proposals to provide permanent, stable funding for the County's public and private emergency and trauma care system, including fees on alcohol consumption.

#### 4.3 Medi-Cal and Healthy Families

Support proposals that reduce the number of uninsured persons, and expand Medi-Cal and Healthy Families coverage to low-income persons such as IHSS workers and juveniles within county probation systems.

Support proposals to simplify and align Medi-Cal and Healthy Families eligibility rules and application processes to increase and expedite the enrollment of uninsured families, including presumptive eligibility, and elimination of financial barriers.

Support increased funding of Medi-Cal and Healthy Families outreach, enrollment, and retention activities.

Support proposals to allow counties and school districts to provide the State matching component and exercise the Federal waiver option to: 1) purchase family coverage, and/or 2) establish a cost-effective alternative using a community-based health delivery system.

Support proposals to allow counties to use Healthy Families funds to provide a continuum of mental health and public health nursing services for children in the public's care.

Support the State's pursuit of a Healthy Families waiver for family coverage where it is cost-effective and does not "crowd out" other health insurance coverage.

Support continued State funding for prenatal services to undocumented women.

Support expansion of the substance abuse benefit for children and parents.

Support pursuit of sufficient State matching funds, the expansion of eligibility and/or increased provider payment rates so that the State will use its entire SCHIP allotment which, under Federal law, must be expended within three years.

Support legislation to simplify and expand eligibility to Medi-Cal such as eliminating the asset tests for the 1931(b) Medi-Cal Program, increasing the income eligibility level to 133% of the federal poverty level for all children through the age of eighteen and their

parents; and providing twelve months of continuous Medi-Cal coverage to include parents.

Support proposals to reform Medicaid, including the State DSH and Section 1115 Waiver components, to increase public hospital and health care system flexibility in redirecting Medicaid funds to priority emphasis areas, such as primary and preventive health care, without reducing total available Medicaid funding levels.

Support proposals to increase the Medi-Cal Maintenance Need Income Level to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and require the State to annually adjust the Medi-Cal Maintenance Need Income Level when the FPL is adjusted.

Support continuation of 100 percent cost-based reimbursement for Federally Qualified Health Centers.

Support assistance to local programs that combat Medi-Cal fraud.

#### 4.4 Health Insurance and Coverage

Support proposals to require public and private insurers to offer full coverage for all health services including prenatal care, contraceptives, and screening for diabetes, hypertension, cervical and breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, STDs and mental health.

Support proposals to provide incentives for small businesses to offer quality health coverage for employees and their dependents, such as allowing small businesses to use both public and private purchasing pools on a regional or county level.

Support increased funding to develop demonstration projects within small businesses to increase enrollment in existing health insurance coverage programs.

Support enhanced access to prescription drugs for low-income uninsured persons.

#### 4.5 Public Health

Support measures that provide funding to strengthen the ability of the public health system to respond to chemical, biological, and other forms of terrorism.

Support proposals which ensure a stable supply of medications, medical supplies, and blood products.

Support increased funding for public health activities including: immunizations, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, family planning, sexually transmitted disease, childhood lead poisoning prevention, injury and violence prevention, food safety, and chronic disease programs.

Support enhanced funding for HIV surveillance activities, and to address growing HIV/AIDS caseloads in minority communities.

Support legislation to require school districts and public park agencies to inspect their facilities on a regular basis for lead paint, report their findings to County health offices, and comply with requirements set by State and County childhood lead abatement programs.

Support legislation to protect and improve drinking water supplies, recreational waters and fish and game ecosystems by utilizing evidence-based approaches.

Support legislation to provide for the safe disposal of all waste materials, especially low-level radioactive waste, by utilizing evidence-based approaches.

Support legislation that enhances food safety programs and regulations.

Support legislation that preserves and enhances housing stock including measures that support safe home environments free from lead, mold and other indoor environmental hazards.

#### 4.6 Health Training and Education

Support an amendment to the Education Code to permit the Los Angeles County College of Nursing and Allied Health to receive State funding like nursing programs in community colleges, or alternatively seek an appropriation in the State budget.

Support enhanced funding for nursing education and training slots at public universities and teaching hospitals, as well as recruitment and retention of nurses and recruitment of physicians into medically underserved areas.

Support proposals which would facilitate the recruitment of experienced pharmacists to work in California, including replacement of the existing State pharmacist licensing examination with the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination and a California law examination.

#### 4.7 Women's Health

Support creation and enforcement of state and county cultural and linguistic competence standards for all health service programs in order to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate care responsive to all women.

Support proposals to fund the development and delivery of child care and transportation services to enable all women to obtain timely and adequate health services.

### **5. Housing and Community Development**

Support proposals that provide incentives to local government and/or developers to increase affordable housing.

Support proposals that increase home ownership opportunities for low and moderate-income families, and employees in vital occupations.

Support proposals that increase housing and supportive services for special needs populations.

Support measures that end predatory lending practices.

Support measures that promote economic incentives as a means of attracting or retaining business in the County, and jobs in high poverty and unemployment areas.

Support proposals which would stimulate the local economy by accelerating or increasing spending on public works and infrastructure projects, especially those which would improve public health and public safety, mitigate hazards, reduce energy usage, or improve transportation.

Oppose proposals to shift property tax increment for existing redevelopment projects.

Oppose proposals to permanently prohibit the issuance of redevelopment tax allocation bonds.

Support legislation to enhance workforce development for high tech industries.

Oppose legislation that would jeopardize the transfer of the City of Industry Tax Increment Housing Set-Aside funds to the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles.

Support direct allocation of Proposition 46 housing, community and economic development program funds to local governments rather than requiring the fund and programs to be administered through the State.

Support legislation to distribute State housing funds to local jurisdictions based upon population and poverty levels.

Support an amendment to the prevailing wage provision of SB 975 so that it does not negatively impact affordable housing production.

Support legislation to provide Public Housing Authorities expanded access to criminal records for fraud and other criminal activity.

Support more flexible income limitations in the Residential Housing Construction Program similar to Federal Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing Program guidelines.

Support legislation to establish grants for the operation of new and existing urban telemedicine programs in medically underserved areas.

## **6. Justice and Public Safety**

Support reimbursement of County costs for the prosecution and defense of new crimes.

Support increased State funding for multi-agency collaborative justice programs.



Support funding to expand video conferencing by law enforcement agencies.

Support full funding of the Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR) Program.

Support legislation to broaden the scope of information about sex offenders that can be provided over the internet and strengthen reporting requirements under Megan's Law.

Support increased funding for monitoring traffic violator school programs.

Support legislation to add the Sheriff to the Real Estate Fraud Trust Fund Committee.

Support legislation to add any chemical used to make illegal drugs to the list of essential chemicals considered necessary for the manufacture of illegal drugs.

#### 6.1 Proposition 36

Support State funding for drug testing to ensure Proposition 36 program compliance since Proposition 36 funds cannot be used for this purpose.

Support additional funding, without supplantation of existing resources, to ensure full access to adequate and meaningful Proposition 36 services.

Support additional funding for county probation departments to ensure that workload staffing ratios do not increase as a result of Proposition 36.

Oppose the use of county Proposition 36 allocations to treat State parolees.

Support supplemental funding for any mental health treatment required by those defendants who are dually diagnosed and are not already part of a county's mental health program, as well as for treatment of diagnosed diseases that are a public health concern.

Support supplemental funding to cover increased county costs for the administration of contracts with qualified treatment providers.

Support continued State funding for Proposition 36 as long as the mandate remains in effect.

Support the prohibition against using Proposition 36 funding for drug treatment programs offered in a prison or jail facility, excluding those drug treatment services provided to defendants who are a part of an electronic monitoring system (EMS) program.

Support relaxation of the Proposition 36 restrictions on jail-based treatment if such programs are part of an overall system of graduated, short-term, therapeutic sanctions supervised by the Courts and provided in a dedicated treatment unit of a county jail.

Support the prohibition of probation for defendants convicted of illegally possessing a firearm while under the influence of drugs, or in possession of illegal drugs for personal use, or for defendants convicted of possession of psychosedative (date rape) drugs.

## 6.2 Trial Court Funding

Support measures which would increase the State's participation in trial court funding through the assumption of responsibility for financing court facility construction and maintenance.

Support measures which would require the State to fully fund any additional court costs incurred in implementing Proposition 36.

Support increased State funding for drug courts with expansion to pre-plea drug court programs.

Support legislation that would permit the use of public funds for electronic court reporting.

## 6.3 Crime Lab

Support funding for the construction, renovation and operation of forensic crime laboratories.

Support funding to contract out work needed to reduce the DNA testing backlog.

## 6.4 Emergency Management and Operations

Support the establishment of Statewide standards for implementation and governance of 3-1-1 programs (non-emergency reporting and general government services) and 2-1-1 programs (community information and referral services).

Support financial assistance to local agencies for the acquisition of thermal imaging equipment that enables emergency response agencies to identify and locate targets in limited visibility environments.

## 6.5 Fire

Support financial assistance to local governments for the acquisition of fire apparatus, including rotary and fixed-wing aircraft.

## 6.6 Juvenile Justice

Support proposals to ensure that each county receives annual Federal TANF block grant funding for emergency assistance (EA) for juvenile probation services in an amount at least equal to that received by counties in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1995.

Support increased State funding for transitional housing programs for delinquent youth.

Support measures that expand truancy programs.

Support increased funding for programs for delinquent and/or emotionally disturbed minors who require intensive case management services or for alternatives to camp placement, including public/private partnerships.

Support measures that provide funding for the construction, renovation, rehabilitation and operation of juvenile justice facilities.

Support funding for prevention and intervention programs for youth at risk of becoming involved or who are currently involved in the juvenile justice system.

Support funding for programs, services and facilities that provide a continuum of mental health services to detained minors, including mental health screenings, assessments and treatment services.

Support funding for information technology initiatives that assist juvenile justice agencies to integrate, upgrade and maintain justice systems.

Support increased funding for the High-Risk Youth Education and Safety Plan which funds services to youths in transition from juvenile camps and ranches.

Support full funding of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Program.

#### 6.7 Probation

Support funding for the Developing Increased Safety through Arms Recovery Management (DISARM) Program.

Oppose reductions in probation funding below the level established in the FY 1998-99 State Budget.

Support legislation to assist probation departments in verifying that sex offenders and arsonists register with local law enforcement agencies, as required, by insuring that probation departments are notified of violators who report directly to court.

Oppose measures that impose a reduction in probation officer caseloads without adequate funding.

Support measures to hold convicted persons accountable for the costs of probation services based on their ability to pay.

Support legislation to authorize increased caseload sizes for probation officers that supervise juvenile probationers using an electronic surveillance program based on a global positioning system.

Support legislation to allow probation departments to register narcotics offenders when the Chief Probation Officer determines there is a need to perform this task and when the resources are available.

Support legislation to restore the ability of the Board of Supervisors to order the distribution of court ordered installment payments.

Support legislation to define the act of a probationer leaving a field or work trip outside of a camp or ranch without permission as an escape.

Support legislation to broaden the circumstances under which probation officers can access school records.

## 6.8 Antiterrorism

Support funding of local efforts to prevent and prepare for acts of terrorism while minimizing duplication of responsibilities. Support legislation to facilitate prosecution of terrorist threats, and establish reasonable punishments.

Support funding to develop a coordinated public information program to communicate health risks and disseminate health information in preparation for and in response to a terrorist attack.

Support funding for decontamination capabilities at all hospitals.

Support funding to establish regional disaster response field hospitals to respond to medical needs during a disaster or terrorism incident.

Support funding to ensure an adequate and stable supply of vaccine, antidotes, medications, medical supplies, and blood products, and the development of a plan to distribute them in an emergency.

Support funding to enhance preparedness of the public health system and Emergency Medical Service providers to respond to chemical, biological, and other forms of terrorism.

Support funding of security improvements and equipment for critical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, dams, flood control, water supply, mass transit facilities, hospitals, and other public structures.

Support development of a coordinated mental health response in the event of a terrorist attack and the funding to implement it.

Support legislation to fund the creation and dissemination of emergency, health or criminal history information.

Support legislation to fund staffing, training and the purchase of rapid response emergency equipment for first-responder teams including police/sheriff, firefighters, health, coroner, hospital emergency staff, and other medical professionals.

## **7. Maintenance of Effort/Mandate Relief**

Support legislation to set a date certain for the payment of deferred SB 90 reimbursements so that local governments will be able to borrow against them.

Seek SB 90 reimbursement for special education-mental health mandates from increased Federal IDEA funds received by the State or under Proposition 98.

Support limiting State administrative fees to the State's actual costs for mandated administration.

Support streamlining or elimination of administrative mandates to focus limited resources on services.

Oppose new unfunded mandates unless they promote a higher priority.

Oppose any increase in the County's Trial Court Funding maintenance of effort above the agreement reached in AB 233 (Escutia) and subsequent actions providing MOE relief.

Oppose any measure to earmark or otherwise encumber the discretionary revenues available to counties as a result of AB 233 (Escutia) and subsequent actions providing MOE relief.

Support proposals to allow counties to apply for maintenance-of-effort relief when facility costs are included in the MOE base and remain an ongoing County responsibility.

## **8. Mental Health**

Support legislation to provide mental health benefits coverage comparable to that provided for physical illnesses.

Support reform of the Lanterman Petris Short Act and related laws that assist and protect the mentally ill.

Support involuntary mental health commitments only if adequate funding for treatment and services is provided.

Support legislation to fund mental health services for children including children's systems of care, multi-disciplinary approaches and training, Community Treatment Facilities, treatment for juvenile offenders, coordination of transitional youth services, and school based mental health services.

Support legislation to fund mental health services for adults and older adults including adult and homeless systems of care, Adult Protective Services, substance abuse treatment, Institutions for Mental Diseases reform, joint law enforcement and mental health teams, and expansion of the Healthy Families Program to include parents.

Increase the Healthy Families Program mental health benefit to meet State standards for provision of mental health services by a public agency.

Support legislation to provide mental health services to CalWORKs recipients, expand mental health parity, multi-agency training and coordination for suicide prevention, emergency services for disaster relief response, and funding for development and recruitment of additional mental health professionals.

Support increased funding for specialized mental health training to law enforcement personnel and probation officers.

Support increased funding for prevention, diversion, and intervention services for mentally ill adults, and delinquent and/or emotionally disturbed minors to divert them from the criminal justice system.

## **9. Revenue and Taxation**

Support full State funding of the school's share of the cost of property tax administration.

Support legislation to provide the County with greater flexibility to increase the local sales tax in light of the 1.5 percent local sales tax cap.

Support proposals to provide for a fee on alcohol consumption to be used to fund trauma and emergency care.

Support continued funding of the Vehicle License Fee backfill, if necessary through a constitutional amendment.

Support legislation to distribute the growth in sales tax revenue within counties on a per-capita or other basis that reflects the service responsibilities of counties.

Support proposals to mitigate County exposure to property tax refunds on State-assessed properties, including the establishment of rebuttable presumption for values established within a defined range of "fair market value."

Support legislation to establish a procedure for notifying new property owners of any outstanding tax obligations following a property sale, and providing that penalties and interest will apply only if the new owner then fails to pay on time, provided that sufficient time is allowed counties to process notices and counties are reimbursed for costs.

Support legislation to clarify that, prospectively, interest on property tax refunds shall be computed from the date of payment of each installment.

Seek legislation to clarify that property tax refund issues are not subject to class action law suits.

Oppose legislation that interferes with the County's ability to quickly resolve requests for assessments or restricts the assessment appeals board's ability to deal with a sudden, large increase in the number of appeals.

Support an extension or elimination of the sunset in Section 401.15 of the Revenue and Taxation Code relating to the valuation of commercial aircraft.

Support legislation and regulation to uniformly apply tax and fees on utilities and similarly situated companies competing in California.

Support legislation to clarify that the exemptions provided to streets and sidewalks by Proposition 218 also apply to street lighting to conform existing statutory assessment levy requirements to Proposition 218, and to clarify that failed passage of an assessment increase under Proposition 218 does not constitute a referendum on the existing levy.

Support legislation to protect counties from refund claims based upon the application of Proposition 62 to taxes imposed in reliance upon applicable case law regarding the unconstitutionality of Proposition 62.

Support proposals to expand the type of debt that can be referred to the California Franchise Tax Board (FTB) intercept program to include debts owed to the County Probation Department and the Department of Health Services, and enable counties to access FTB tax return information for collection purposes.

Support legislation to require the Board of Equalization to identify the fiscal impact of any new or revised rule, regulation or instruction.

Support proposals to allow local governments to negotiate compensation for the use of rights-of-way by telecommunication companies.

Support legislation to clarify that the State Board of Equalization has sole responsibility for determining whether or not an organization may qualify for property tax welfare exemptions and that counties have sole responsibility for verifying that the uses of individual properties qualify for welfare exemptions.

Oppose legislation to require organizations to file for welfare exempt status in individual counties before evaluation of individual property uses.

Support legislation to clarify that, in addition to the right to inspect an assessee's records for purposes of assessment, an assessor has the right to copy those records.

Oppose legislation to require a trial de novo for property tax appeals.

Support legislation to require marina or storage facility operators to report vessels at their location to the county assessor for the purpose of assessment.

Support legislation to require manufactured home park operators to report the names, mailing addresses, park space number and description of resident homes to county assessors.

## **10. Social Services**

### **10.1 Reforming the Safety Net and Promoting Self-Sufficiency**

Support proposals for State and local governments to work together as partners to balance resources, eligibility and benefits, and forge new partnerships with business, nonprofit, and religious organizations to promote individual self-sufficiency.

Support proposals to allocate block grant funds based on actual costs and caseloads for various functions such as assistance grants and employment services.

Support a single integrated safety net which pools Federal, State, and county resources.

Support the maintenance of a Statewide safety net because counties cannot afford to aid persons who are ineligible for Federal benefits under welfare reform.

Support a Statewide safety net that covers legal immigrants while holding sponsors, when available and able to pay, financially liable for sponsored immigrants.

Support the use of savings from welfare reform to finance safety net services, especially for vulnerable persons losing Federal eligibility who otherwise would be a County responsibility under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

Support increased funding for the provision of services to non-custodial parents to help them meet their responsibilities to their children, including services aimed at increasing their income, payment of child support, parenting skills, and positive relationships with their children.

Support efforts to lift the cap on State Food Stamp Employment and Training funding and require the State to fully fund the non-Federal match.

Support efforts to maximize Federal funding for Medicaid, Food Stamps, child welfare services, child support, and child care.

Support options to simplify the administration of public assistance programs such as CalWORKs, Medi-Cal and Food Stamps, including seeking any necessary Federal waivers.

Oppose efforts to make counties responsible for any Federal penalties resulting from circumstances beyond their control including inadequate Federal and State administrative funding as well as unclear Federal and State program instructions.

Support adequate funding to cover new Federal mandates for data collection, verification, reporting, and fraud detection systems, while maintaining priority for previously approved automated systems such as the County's LEADER project.



Support funding to modify the County's automated systems in any legislation containing policy changes that impact those systems.

## 10.2 CalWORKs

Support measures that promote economic self-sufficiency through partnerships with public, private, nonprofit, and religious organizations to hire CalWORKs participants and provide limited community service and work experience opportunities.

Support measures that enable counties to develop coordinated systems, which include, but are not limited to, Employment Development Department and Department of Social Services programs that assess CalWORKs participants, and identify and develop the employment, training, or community work experience activities to which CalWORKs participants can be referred.

Support an equitable allocation of CalWORKs funds to counties based on relative need.

Support legislation to exempt the full value of one vehicle per household and/or a greater portion of a vehicle's value from the CalWORKs and Food Stamp vehicle asset limit to ensure that clients have dependable transportation.

Support the full funding of CalWORKs Performance Incentives.

Support a Statewide safety net to cover hardship cases, such as families with abused or neglected children, the disabled, emancipated foster youth at risk of homelessness, children, or parents who are not readily employable beyond the five-year limit on Federal TANF benefits, and adults who have complied with the work requirements but are unable to find employment through no fault of their own.

Support expansion of the State's financial commitment to local welfare-to-work programs that promote self-sufficiency among welfare recipients/applicants, non-custodial parents of children receiving TANF benefits, and Food Stamp applicants/recipients.

Support the use of TANF funds to provide employment-related and support services to non-custodial parents of children receiving TANF benefits, as permitted under Federal law.

Support a Statewide safety net for families in which a member may be disqualified from receiving TANF and Food Stamp benefits due to drug-related convictions, if that family member has successfully completed a qualified drug rehabilitation program and remains drug free, as demonstrated through periodic drug testing.

## 10.3 Welfare-to-Work Program

Support State matching funds sufficient to maximize the availability of Federal funding.

Support the pass through of all Welfare-to-Work formula grant funds to workforce investment boards that administer the program at the local level.

Support the equitable allocation of Welfare-to-Work funds to local workforce investment boards, targeting at least two-thirds of available funds to private industry councils which serve areas with high concentrations of poor people, based upon current poverty data.

Support proposals to ensure local flexibility and oppose additional requirements on the use of Welfare-to-Work funds.

#### 10.4 Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Support the equitable pass through of the maximum amount of Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to workforce investment boards that administer the program at the local level, without additional requirements on the use of funds.

Support consultation with local officials during revision of the Federal-mandated five-year strategic plan, especially with respect to local performance measures.

Support establishment of performance levels for all target populations (adult, dislocated workers and youth) that are reasonable and do not penalize local areas with high unemployment rates and disproportionate numbers of hard-to-employ persons, or which chose to target employment and training services at the hard-to-employ.

Support the use of all of the Governor's WIA set-aside dollars (15 percent discretionary funds) to provide workforce investment services in the State of California.

#### 10.5 Citizenship and Legalization Assistance

Support increased funding for citizenship assistance with priority for services given to immigrants who have lost Federal benefits and to immigrants with special needs, such as the elderly and disabled, with allocations to counties based upon their share of the total number of legal immigrants statewide.

Support funding to assist in the legalization of immigrants covered under the Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act.

#### 10.6 Domestic Violence

Support increased funding for services to domestic violence victims and their children, including increased funding for outreach and the identification of domestic violence victims and their families in unserved or under-served populations.

Support proposals to create a separate State allocation for domestic violence services to CalWORKs recipients.

Support efforts to promote education and training regarding domestic violence.

Support legislation to foster coordination and collaboration between the various agencies providing domestic violence services.

### 10.7 In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Support legislation to reestablish an 80 percent funding formula for State participation in IHSS wages and benefits or develop an alternative way to increase State program participation to a level that would guarantee IHSS wages of at least \$7.50 per hour.

### 10.8 Senior and Adult Services

Support increased funding for adult protective services to enable counties to ensure the safety and protection of abused and neglected elders and dependent adults.

Support measures to ensure that counties have priority for adult protective services funding over agencies which do not have State-mandated responsibilities.

Support increased IHSS funding with emphasis on respite care and the establishment of community-based, long-term care programs.

Support legislation or budgetary actions to provide a tax credit to individuals who provide in-home care for elderly parents or other family members.

Support legislation to provide State funding for emergency IHSS providers to allow recipients to continue to receive IHSS services when the regular provider becomes ill or is otherwise unavailable to provide care.

Support reestablishment and full funding for the Special Circumstances Program to provide assistance to eligible, low-income aged, blind and disabled persons.

Support increased funding for aging programs such as Linkages, Multipurpose Senior Services Program, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers, and Home Delivered Meals.

Support funding for construction, renovation and/or acquisition of centers serving senior citizens.

Support State funding for elder abuse forensic examination programs.

### 10.9 Community Services Block Grant Funding

Support the equitable allocation of Federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding based on the 2000 Census or a need based formula, and oppose the use of CSBG grant funds to supplant existing funding of local programs.

### 10.10 Veterans

Support efforts to reduce homelessness for veterans and their families, increase affordable housing, mental health services and employment opportunities, and provide other essential assistance to those who have honorably served in our armed forces.

## **11. State-County Relationship**

Oppose any further erosion of the County's property tax, sales tax, locally-imposed tax or fee, or Vehicle License Fee revenue base.

Oppose any legislation or regulation that would transfer to Los Angeles County or its residents any costs or revenue losses incurred by another jurisdiction.

Support or sponsor a constitutional amendment to reallocate to local school districts the property tax revenue derived from State-assessed properties in exchange for reallocation of non-ERAF property tax revenues derived from the local roll.

Support proposals to restructure State and local service responsibilities if they: create a nexus between authority, responsibility, accountability, and revenues; promote program effectiveness and cost containment; and recognize the limited fiscal capacity of counties by transferring sufficient revenue in the first and subsequent years.

Oppose the shift of programs unless control over those programs is also shifted.

Support all reasonable proposals to secure return of the property taxes lost under ERAF.

Support proposals to cap ERAF growth as an interim measure pending full return of the property tax.

Oppose legislation to change the definition of revenue neutrality in special cases, unless other entities are protected from unintended legal precedents by language narrowly justifying the need for special legislation.

Support a constitutional amendment to provide that the State budget and related bills can be approved by a majority vote.

## **12. Transportation**

Support legislation to increase the fines for rail transit rights-of-way violations to make them comparable to fines for running a red-light or illegally driving in an HOV lane.

Support funding for the 1989 Retrofit Sound Wall and the post-1989 Sound Wall lists.

Support funding for pedestrian projects such as crosswalks, lighting, and traffic control.

Support dedicated funding for transportation required by the Welfare-to-Work Program.

Support an increase in grade separation funds if regional transit programs are not harmed and the funding received by the Department of Public Works from the California Department of Transportation or from gas tax revenues is not reduced.

Support the direct allocation of funds to local governments for the preservation of local streets and roads, without reducing other transportation funds or impacting other agencies.

Support the protection of Transportation Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) funds, and oppose the diversion of TCRP funds from critical transportation projects.

Support the redirection of Federal minimum guarantee funds from the State Transportation Improvement Program to the Regional Surface Transportation Program.

Support legislation to reduce the vote requirement for enacting a county-wide sales or gas tax transportation measure.

### **13. Utilities and Infrastructure**

#### **13.1 Energy**

Support the expansion of electric generation and supply in California, including a waiver of air quality emission standards when supply is critically low.

Support an exemption to allow public agencies to extend the use of emergency generators when electrical blackouts are imminent.

Support increased funding to public agencies to encourage reduced consumption, develop alternative energy sources, and shift usage to non-peak hours.

Support funding for a grant program to encourage electric retrofitting of public buildings.

Support legislation to permit municipal utilities to enter into agreements with neighboring public agencies currently served by an investor owned utility for the provision of electricity.

Support authority for local governments that produce power to serve their own facilities utilizing the transmission lines of public or investor-owned utilities.

Support funding to encourage local governments to install traffic signals with an independent power source.

Support proposals to assist low-income and elderly households with energy assistance, such as payment subsidies, conservation education, weatherization, and energy efficiency improvements.

#### **13.2 Waste Management**

Support increased flexibility for local agencies to meet the waste reduction goals of the State Integrated Waste Management Act.

Support proposals to correct deficiencies in State waste disposal reporting requirements.

Support legislation to promote the development of alternatives to landfills and incineration, including conversion technologies, and provide diversion credit for these alternatives.

Support funding to local governments for the environmentally safe management of electronic waste.

Support legislation to expand markets for diverted materials including funds for Recycling Market Development Zones.

Support the elimination of overlapping authority between the Department of Conservation's Division of Recycling and all CAL- EPA agencies/departments.

Support legislation to place greater emphasis on waste diversion program implementation when determining a local government's compliance with the California Integrated Waste Management Act.

Support legislation to provide increased local government representation on the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Oppose legislation to eliminate diversion credits for the use of green waste as a landfill cover.

### 13.3 Telephone Services

Support efforts to establish technology-specific area codes in order to reduce the proliferation of area codes for regular telephone customers.

**COUNTY-SPONSORED PROGRAM-SPECIFIC GOALS  
(Board Actions and Department Requests)**

**1. Clarification of Documentary Transfer Tax Application**

As a result of the deregulation of the electric industry, investor-owned utilities were required to sell off much of their generation capacity. Southern California Edison (Edison) sold off four generating plants in Los Angeles County to companies outside of California. Documentary Transfer Tax payments were required on these sales. Edison paid the documentary transfer tax on only that portion of the sale price that was equal to the “net book value” last shown by the State Board of Equalization which resulted in Edison paying tax on only 50 percent of the actual sales price. Litigation is pending to resolve this issue; however, legislative clarification would ensure that it does not happen again in other large sales. **Therefore, the County will pursue legislation to clarify that documentary transfer taxes are applicable to the full sale price of real property.**

**2. SB 1956 Clean-up Legislation**

Last session, the County sponsored SB 1956 which streamlined various notice statutes for dependency hearings in the Welfare & Institutions Code by reorganizing and consolidating them in new statutes. One result of this consolidation was to eliminate section 366.21(b), the former notice provision for status review hearings. However, the elimination of subsection (b) necessitates re-lettering the eleven remaining subsections in section 366.21 which in turn requires changes to court forms and other documents that refer to each status review hearing by its prior designation. Counties and courts will incur costs to print new forms to match the newly re-lettered subsections. Also, courts, attorneys and caseworkers may be confused by the new subsection letters. The proposed reconciliation of WIC section 366.21(b) will eliminate the need for counties and courts to create costly new forms. **Therefore, it is recommended that the County sponsor emergency legislation to reconcile WIC section 366.21(b) to SB 1956.**

### **3. Establishment of Procedures to Shorten Appeals Affecting the Adoption of Children**

Currently, an appeal of a court order determining the placement of dependent children and specifying who may adopt those children, can adversely affect the child. If a party disappointed with a court's placement order appeals, it will result in a substantial delay in creating permanence for the child and possibly severe emotional trauma. A temporary but overly long placement may result due to the fact that the average dependency appeal can take anywhere from ten months to a year. In that time, a child may form a close attachment and bond to the family with whom the child resides during the appeal, only to face possible replacement once the appeal is decided. An earlier placement is in the best interest of the child. **Therefore, it is recommended that the County sponsor legislation to shorten the amount of time on adoption appeals.**

### **4. Designation of the Time Requirements for Serving Dependency Review Hearing Reports as Directory and Not Mandatory**

The dependency statutory scheme requires that parents be notified of each hearing in the dependency proceedings, and for the court to make a finding that the notice was proper. Notice is the process of informing parties in a legal action that a hearing has been set in a case in which they are involved and giving the time, place and purpose of the hearing. Notice provisions are defined by statutory and case law and failure to properly notice parents of dependency proceedings deprives parents of due process. The dependency statutory scheme also provides that parents receive a copy of the status review hearing reports prior to the review hearings. Welfare and Institutions Code Section 366.21 provides that social workers must file with the court and provide to the parents or guardians and to the child's counsel a status report at least ten calendar days prior to the status review hearing. The court in *In re Courtney P.* held that the status report requirement was mandatory and constituted a "per se" reversible error standard to be applied in all cases where the court or parent did not receive the report ten days prior to the hearing. In cases where the notice of the review hearing has been properly made, it may not always make sense to impose the ten day status report rule, thereby limiting the trial court's ability to determine what is a reasonable time frame. It may unnecessarily delay the permanence of a child and cause needless court congestion. **Therefore, it is recommended that the County sponsor legislation authorizing the court to grant a reasonable continuance not to exceed ten days if a report is not provided to the parties within a reasonable time before the hearing.**



## **5. Proposed Amendments to Improve Implementation of the Safe Haven Law**

The existing Safe Haven Law provides immunity from prosecution to a parent who surrenders physical custody of a child 72 hours old or younger to a designated safe haven site. The County's Safe Haven Task Force has identified the need to strengthen the preventive aspects of the law. On June 4, 2002 the Board directed development of the following recommended amendments to improve implementation of the Safe Haven Law: 1) ensure the confidentiality of a parent who surrenders a child under the Safe Haven Law; 2) require all designated safe haven sites to post uniform identifying safe surrender site markers; 3) expand the designation of safe haven sites to include hospitals without emergency departments and county fire stations; and 4) expand the "Good Samaritan Law" to include adults who assist others to safely surrender their babies.

In addition, the Safe Haven Task Force recommends the following amendments: 1) extend the sunset provision of the Safe Haven Law from January 1, 2006 to January 1, 2008; 2) require hospitals to contact the local Child Protective Services Agency as soon as practicably possible and in no case more than 24 hours after an infant is surrendered; 3) require the child protective services agency receiving the child to report all known identifying information regarding the child, as well as the city in which the child was safely surrendered, to the California Missing Children Clearinghouse within 48 hours of receiving custody of the child; and 4) clarify that possession of the copy of the information contained on the identification bracelet placed on an infant surrendered under the Safe Haven Law does not establish maternity, paternity, or custody and only gives the bearer standing to assert his or her interest in the infant in juvenile court. **Therefore, the County will pursue amendments to the Safe Haven Law that reflect these changes and improvements.**

## **6. Prohibit the Manufacture and Sale of Public Agency Badges**

Los Angeles County Firefighter badges were recently manufactured and offered for sale without authorization from the Board of Supervisors. Existing State law controls and regulates badges issued to peace officer personnel but does not control or protect any other official badge and/or associated photographic identification card such as those issued to the Board of Supervisors, Superior Court Judges, Deputy District Attorneys, and Firefighters. The existing County Ordinance that prohibits the unauthorized sale and manufacture of Los Angeles badges is only applicable within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. As a result, the unauthorized manufacture and sale of Los Angeles County badges that occurs outside unincorporated county areas is not an offense that can be prosecuted. **Therefore, the County will sponsor legislation to protect any official State, county, city, city and county or agency badge and/or associated photographic identification cards from unauthorized wearing, exhibiting, use, manufacture, sale, loan, gift or transfer.**

## **7. Conversion of High Desert Hospital to a Multi-service Ambulatory Care Center**

On June 26, 2002, the Board of Supervisors approved the Department of Health Services' Strategic Plan which calls for the conversion of High Desert Hospital from an inpatient facility to a multi-service ambulatory center that could provide a range of outpatient services including primary care, specialty care and same day surgery. The Department's plan calls for the conversion to occur by May 2003. However, California does not currently have a single licensure category for this type of facility and the California Department of Health Services strictly limits the ability of separately licensed entities to share space and staff. Consequently, the conversion of High Desert Hospital to a multi-service facility may be extremely difficult and entail inefficiencies such as duplicate staffing for different services that make it a less attractive alternative. In addition, Medi-Cal payments for a multi-service facility could become very complicated and uncertain once the County's 1115 waiver ends. **Therefore, it is recommended that the County seek legislation to create a new licensure category for multi-service ambulatory care centers that would allow for their reimbursement under Medi-Cal.**

## **8. Secure SB 1732 Funding for the LAC+USC Medical Center Replacement Project**

Current law imposes restrictions on the County's ability to access SB 1732 funding which allows for State reimbursement of a portion of the cost of hospital capital projects that meet State criteria and Federal Medicaid requirements for disproportionate share hospitals. On December 3, 2002, the Board of Supervisors directed that the County seek amendments to SB 1732 to maximize the availability of funding for the Medical Center Replacement Project, while preserving the option to expand its scope at the Board's discretion. **Therefore, the County will seek amendments to SB 1732 to achieve these objectives.**

## **2003 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

### **WATER QUALITY, RECREATION AND BEACH IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Increasingly, State funding criteria for watershed management and water quality improvement projects require that they are multipurpose. To meet the anticipated funding criteria under certain sections of Propositions 40 and 50, the Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and the Chief Administrative Office have cooperated in developing the following list of projects. The list demonstrates the County's recognition of the important linkage between watershed management, environmental restoration, recreation, open space, and beach improvements. The list integrates the projects to maximize the County's immediate opportunities for State funding from Propositions 40 and 50 and represents only the first phase of a larger group of projects that will have to be done over a period of years.

Geographically, the projects are spread from Santa Clarita and the San Gabriel foothills, along the County's major rivers and creeks, to Long Beach, Marina del Rey and the County's beaches. Although the projects have been grouped alphabetically by Supervisorial District (with some of the projects having elements in more than one District), the list must be viewed in its totality. Combined, the projects create a multi-purpose plan for improving watersheds, habitats, beaches and parks, recreational opportunities, as well as public access and safety. Several of the projects have been taken from the Los Angeles River Master Plan. The remaining projects are consistent with watershed plans for the Arroyo Seco, Ballona Creek, Compton Creek, Malibu Creek, the San Gabriel River, Sun Valley, Topanga Creek, and the Tujunga Wash. These plans have been completed, or are being developed, by committees with representatives from all levels of government, environmental groups, other stakeholder groups, and interested citizens.

Pursuit of funding for the projects on this list will focus on the "Clean Beaches, Watershed Protection and Water Quality" section of Proposition 40, Proposition 40 funds earmarked for local conservancies and river parkway projects, and the "Clean Water and Water Quality," "Integrated Regional Water Management," and "Coastal Protection" sections of Proposition 50. This effort will be in addition to the County's pursuit of funding for local park, cultural and historic resource preservation, water supply and dam security, and beach facility improvement projects that will not qualify under these sections of Propositions 40 and 50, but may be eligible for grants under other programs.**Exhibit 1**

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY

**WATER QUALITY, RECREATION AND BEACH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LIST**

*It is the County's intent to deliver a variety of multi-purpose projects to improve water quality and conservation, expand and enhance open space and recreational opportunities, restore native plant and animal habitats, and improve flood protection and public safety. When completed these projects will meet multiple public needs, efficiently utilizing public funding to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Los Angeles County.*

**FIRST DISTRICT****A. Arroyo Seco Restoration****\$ 15,000,000**

(Also in the Fifth District)

This is Public Work's estimate of the First District's portion of a \$50 million pilot project involving concrete removal and habitat restoration. It is the first phase of an a larger project, that will lead to reduced storm water pollution, improved groundwater supplies, and the aesthetic, environmental, and recreational benefits of a naturally functioning stream.

- County Responsibility: Public Works
- Potential Partners: Cities of Los Angeles, Pasadena, South Pasadena, and La Canada Flintridge,  
Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, Environmental Groups,  
Homeowner Groups

**B. Los Angeles River Master Plan Implementation****\$ 29,250,000**

(Also in the Second, Third and Fourth Districts)

This is Public Work's estimate for the projects in the First District that are part of the nearly \$74 million in L.A. River projects included in this list. The Los Angeles River is a 51-mile concrete flood control channel constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Master Plan multiuse projects involve landscaping and beautification, habitat restoration, expanded recreational opportunities, water quality improvement, and flood mitigation. Some of the projects have already been funded and built. The remaining overall plan includes 47 individual projects, totaling about \$200 million, including the Tujunga Wash Restoration and Dominguez Gap Wetlands Development Projects, which are shown separately in this list.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Army Corps of Engineers, Cities, State Agencies,  
Environmental Groups, Homeowners Groups, Businesses

**C. Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds Multiuse Improvements**      **\$ 5,000,000**

This is the second phase of improvements to the Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds, the County's largest groundwater recharge facility. This project is a collaborative effort to landscape and beautify the Spreading Grounds, allow public access via trails and bike paths, and to provide educational and passive recreation opportunities.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Cities, Water Agencies, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowners Groups

**D. San Gabriel River Water Management and Conservation**      **\$ 4,450,000**

Construction of two inflatable rubber dams, temporarily capturing the river water to recharge groundwater supplies, prevent water loss to the ocean, and reduce the transport of trash to the ocean. The project was recently awarded a Proposition 13 grant for \$2,150,000, which will partially fund the project.

- County Responsibility: Public Works
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Water Replenishment District of Southern California

**E. Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area Improvements**      **\$ 10,000,000**

Development of 40 acres of undeveloped land within an Army Corps of Engineers' flood control facility, to provide improved storm water management and groundwater recharge, and up to 10 soccer fields.

- County Responsibility: Parks and Recreation/Public Works
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, AYSO

**F. Whittier Narrows Water Quality Improvements**      **\$ 5,000,000**

Renovation of lakes and public recreation facilities, removal of failing septic system, and elimination of safety hazards at a 1,400 acre park built on an Army Corps of Engineers' flood control facility, which will reduce storm water and groundwater pollution, and improve recreation and public safety.

- County Responsibility: Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, Environmental Groups

## **SECOND DISTRICT**

### **G. Compton Creek Beautification**

**\$ 47,000,000**

This project will support a current collaborative effort to develop parks, bike, and equestrian trails, and green/open space, as well as systems to trap trash, debris and pollutants, along the 8.6 miles of blighted flood control channel, located in a densely developed, but underserved urban area. The first phase of this work is estimated at between \$5 and \$10 million.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, City of Compton, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowner Groups

### **H. Los Angeles River Master Plan Implementation**

**\$ 1,800,000**

(Also in the First, Third and Fourth Districts)

This is Public Work's estimate for the project in the Second District that is part of the nearly \$74 million in L.A. River projects included in this list. The Los Angeles River is a 51-mile concrete flood control channel constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Master Plan multiuse projects involve landscaping and beautification, habitat restoration, expanded recreational opportunities, water quality improvement, and flood mitigation. Some of the projects have already been funded and built. The remaining overall plan includes 47 individual projects, totaling about \$200 million, including the Tujunga Wash Restoration and Dominguez Gap Wetlands Development Projects, which are shown separately in this list.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Army Corps of Engineers, Cities, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowners Groups, Businesses

## **THIRD DISTRICT**

### **I. Beach and Marina Water Quality Improvements**

**\$ 2,500,000**

(Also in the Fourth District)

This is Beaches and Harbors' estimate for the Third District's portion of this \$6 million project, which will install water quality improvement devices, such as clarifiers and filters, in storm drains at all beach and Marina parking lots to clean water deposited on beaches or into the Marina and the Santa Monica Bay.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: State Agencies, Environmental Groups

**J. Beach septic System Improvements****\$ 3,200,000**

Reconstruct 18 beach restroom septic systems, along the Malibu and unincorporated County shoreline, to meet current water quality standards, improve restroom functioning, and to reduce the potential for beach and groundwater contamination.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: State Agencies, Environmental Groups

**K. Los Angeles River Master Plan Implementation****\$ 14,400,000**

(Also in the First, Second and Fourth Districts)

This is Public Work's estimate for the projects in the Third District that are part of the nearly \$74 million in L.A. River projects included in this list. The Los Angeles River is a 51-mile concrete flood control channel constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Master Plan multiuse projects involve landscaping and beautification, habitat restoration, expanded recreational opportunities, water quality improvement, and flood mitigation. Some of the projects have already been funded and built. The remaining overall plan includes 47 individual projects, totaling about \$200 million, including the Tujunga Wash Restoration and Dominguez Gap Wetlands Development Projects, which are shown separately in this list.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Army Corps of Engineers, Cities, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowners Groups, Businesses

**L. Sun Valley Watershed Management****\$ 24,000,000**

This is the first phase of a \$200 million project to improve the quality of life for citizens in a highly developed, residential and industrial urban area, using structural and non-structural watershed management techniques, which will provide improved groundwater retention, flood hazard mitigation, pollution reduction, recreational opportunities, and open space.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, City of Los Angeles, Cal Fed, Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Groups, Homeowner Groups, Private Businesses, Treepeople

**M. Tujunga Wash Restoration****\$ 5,000,000**

Creation of an alternative naturalized stream course on the bank of an existing flood control channel, with native trees, shrubs and flowering plants, hiking and bike trails, and riparian habitat. This project will also enhance water quality.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, City of Los Angeles, Mountains Resource Conservation Area/Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy  
Environmental Groups, Homeowner Groups

**FOURTH DISTRICT****N. Ballona Creek Middle Jetty Beautification****\$ 2,500,000**

This project will support an ongoing collaborative (federal/state/local) effort to enhance Ballona Creek, the South Bay Bicycle trail, and adjacent open space, by providing habitat enhancement for migratory birds, as well as interpretive facilities for freshwater and saltwater environments, while improving public safety along a heavily used flood control channel in a densely developed, but underserved urban area.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, City of Los Angeles, Culver City, Coastal Conservancy, Other State Agencies, Environmental Groups

**O. Ballona Lagoon Tidal Improvements****\$ 800,000**

This project will replace an existing automatic tide gate that provides the primary water flow between the Venice canals and the Pacific Ocean; construct a new staging platform and bulkhead; and repair the existing flap and slide gates to enhance tidal flushing and improve water circulation.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: City of Los Angeles, Coastal Conservancy, Other State Agencies

**P. Beach and Marina Water Quality Improvements****\$ 3,500,000**

(Also in the Third District)

This is Beaches and Harbors' estimate of the Fourth District's portion of this \$6 million project, which will install water quality improvement devices, such as clarifiers and filters, in storm drains at all beach and Marina parking lots to clean water deposited on beaches or into the Marina and the Santa Monica Bay.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: State Agencies, Environmental Groups



**Q. Dockweiler Bluffs Improvements****\$ 4,000,000**

This project will improve 3 miles of bluff, at a State-owned beach west of LAX, by providing a new sidewalk, storm drain/water quality improvements, new stairs and ADA access ramps, as well as erosion control through restoration of native plants and a retaining wall at the base of the bluff. The project will complement a County-funded \$8.9 million refurbishment project, involving restrooms, concessions, and parking lots, which will be under construction in the near future.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors
- Potential Partners: City of Los Angeles, Coastal Conservancy, Environmental Groups

**R. Dominguez Gap Wetlands Development****\$ 10,000,000**

As one of the demonstration projects in the Los Angeles River Master Plan, this project involves the modification of two existing groundwater replenishment basins to create wetlands, greenspace, passive recreation facilities and educational features, while recharging groundwater and enhancing water quality.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Corps of Engineers, City of Long Beach, State Agencies, Environmental and Community Groups

**S. Los Angeles River Master Plan Implementation****\$ 28,300,000**

(Also in the First, Second and Third Districts)

This is Public Work's estimate for the projects in the Fourth District that are part of the nearly \$74 million in L.A. River projects included in this list. The Los Angeles River is a 51-mile concrete flood control channel constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Master Plan multiuse projects involve landscaping and beautification, habitat restoration, expanded recreational opportunities, water quality improvement, and flood mitigation. Some of the projects have already been funded and built. The remaining overall plan includes 47 individual projects, totaling about \$200 million, including the Tujunga Wash Restoration and Dominguez Gap Wetlands Development Projects, which are shown separately in this list.

- County Responsibility: Public Works/Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: Army Corps of Engineers, Cities, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowners Groups, Businesses

**T. Marina del Rey Beach Water Quality Improvements****\$ 1,125,000**

Additional funding is required to augment a \$2 million grant from the State Clean Beaches Initiative (Prop 13) for construction of a water infusion system to eliminate health hazards caused by pollution, as well as installation of clarifiers in surrounding parking lots to capture pollutants, and replenishment of the beach with clean sand.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: County Health Department, State Agencies, Environmental Groups

**U. Oxford Basin Habitat Restoration****\$ 2,500,000**

This project will improve approximately 2,500 linear feet of pedestrian promenade around a flood retention basin that directly feeds into Marina del Rey, making it ADA-compliant; refurbishing fencing, landscaping and irrigation; and adding lighting, street furnishings, water quality enhancements, and habitat interpretive signage.

- County Responsibility: Beaches and Harbors/Public Works
- Potential Partners: City of Los Angeles, Coastal Conservancy, Other State Agencies, Environmental Groups

**FIFTH DISTRICT****V. Arroyo Seco Restoration****\$ 35,000,000**

(Also in the First District)

This is Public Work's estimate of the Fifth District's portion of a \$50 million pilot project involving concrete removal and habitat restoration. It is the first phase of a larger project, leading to reduced storm water pollution, improved groundwater supplies, and the aesthetic, environmental, and recreational benefits of a naturally functioning stream.

- County Responsibility: Public Works
- Potential Partners: Cities of Los Angeles, Pasadena, South Pasadena, and La Canada Flintridge,  
Corps of Engineers, State Agencies, Environmental Groups, Homeowner Groups

**W. Santa Clara River Park****\$ 5,000,000**

One of a number of projects being planned to preserve/restore/improve the Santa Clara River watershed, from its headwaters to its outlet in Ventura, this project involves development of 13 acres as active and passive parkland along the River.

- County Responsibility: Parks and Recreation
- Potential Partners: City of Santa Clarita, Community Groups